

RI Transportation *Digest*

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Rhode Island Department of Transportation Newsletter

New technology helps RIDOT increase safety for bike path users and motorists

The Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) has adopted Cross Alert system, an innovative traffic safety technology invented by a Warwick company, to help motorists and bike path users coexist safely.

"We're pleased to take advantage of this new technology by providing another safety measure for bicycle and pedestrian traffic," said RIDOT Director James R. Capaldi, P.E. "This system will provide another set of eyes for both the motorists and the users of the path, by telling the motorists to

proceed with caution, and telling path users to stop."

The Cross Alert system features a red LED (Light Emitting Diode) light and stop sign that are presented to bike path users and a yellow LED light and warning sign that are presented to motor vehicle traffic. The system is activated when users of the path pass through an infrared motion sensor. When the sensor detects motion on the path, the compan-

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CROSS-ALERT System, as installed on the East Bay Bike Path, at the intersection of Franklin St. in Warren.

RIDOT, state and local leaders honor General Nathanael Greene

Rhode Island National Guard Major General Reginald Centracchio, State Senator Leo R. Blais, Warwick Mayor

Scott Avedisian and members of the Rhode Island Colonial Militia joined Rhode Island Department of Trans-

portation (RIDOT) Director James R. Capaldi, P.E., on August 19 to unveil a new sign for Route 117, officially

known as General Nathanael Greene Memorial Highway. The event was held at the General Nathanael Greene Homestead located in Coventry.



New highway sign for Rte. 117

General Nathanael Greene was born in Warwick and was

George Washington's during the Revolutionary War. His Coventry "Homestead" was built in 1770 and is situated above the Pawtuxet River on ten acres of open space and woodlands.

The highway signs are being installed on Route 117 in Coventry, West Warwick, and the city of Warwick. Route 117 received its official designation as General Nathanael Greene Memorial Highway through legislation dating back to 1961.



STATE AND LOCAL OFFICIALS, and numerous members of the Rhode Island Colonial Militia march up an embankment at the General Nathanael Greene Homestead in Coventry in August to ceremonies unveiling a new highway sign to mark Rte. 117 as General Nathanael Greene Highway.

Recycle this issue - pass it on!

From the Director's Office

As many of you know, I am heading up the annual State Employees Charitable Appeal (SECA) this year. I am very pleased to take this leadership role, especially since our campaign theme is, "State Employees Care."

In chairing the campaign, I have had two major responsibilities. One was to tape a video message which has been distributed to all Departments. The other was to serve as emcee at the campaign kickoff.

The video features Rhode Island storyteller, Len Cabral, telling the tale of the elephant and the monkeys. When the elephant falls into a hole in the forest, the monkeys begin throwing coconuts into the hole. The elephant thinks, a first, that the monkeys are being mean to him. The monkeys however, just keep throwing in more and more coconuts. Eventually the elephant can simply step from the pile of coconuts out of the hole.

This story teaches us that a small action can make a big difference, and that's true here in Rhode Island as well. The funds raised make a difference every day in our community and around the world.

With the Governor's assistance, the SECA kickoff was held in mid-September in the atrium at the Department of Administration. At the event, a number of United Way agencies distributed literature about their programs.

I told the audience I was especially pleased with the theme of the campaign. We all know that state employees really do care! It's been true every year in the past, and I know it will be true this year, too. Through my state



RIDOT DIRECTOR James R. Capaldi, P.E., Chair of the 2004 State Employees Charitable Appeal, addresses an audience at the SECA Kickoff, held in mid-September at the Department of Administration.

experiences over the past 34 years, I've come across many very generous and caring people.

Even with this knowledge, I was amazed to learn that in 2003, 4,200 of us gave over \$841,000 to help improve the lives of those less fortunate.

I urge you to take a thoughtful look at the many agencies participating in this year's campaign. With over 400 agencies, I challenge you to look through

the SECA Brochure – I'm sure you'll find at least one that pulls at your heart. You can make a difference this year, by agreeing to donate even a few dollars. You will be helping to bring communities together and reduce need in our state.

Before I close, I'd like to thank the staff in my office for their help in preparing for the campaign, especially Suzanne Amerault.

RIDOT Construction employee named Rhode Island Foundation Fellow

The annual Rhode Island Foundation Fellows program makes it possible for up to 20 of Rhode Island's nonprofit leaders to pursue their own ideas of professional development, by providing up to \$12,500 to each fellow. In addition, each group of Fellows works on a joint project to benefit the state's nonprofit sector.

Year Four Rhode Island Foundation Fellows include Muraina Akinfolarin, a resident engineer in RIDOT Construction. With the Rhode Island Foundation funds, he hopes to build a successful coalition among the state's African immigrants.

Akinfolarin is also executive director of Oasis International in Providence and a resident of Providence. He in-

tends to take university courses to enhance his management and communication skills and to visit places, "where different peoples come together for the common good," including Los Angeles and New York with their large Latino populations, and Washington, DC, which he believes has one of the few successful coalitions of Africans in the United States.

Alexander Nolfé receives third national Writing Skills Award

For the third time in six years Dana Alexander Nolfé, RIDOT's Chief Public Affairs Officer, has won the Skills Award in the Writing Category for Best Guest Editorial or Op-ed Piece in the country.

The award was presented in Denver, Colorado in August by the National Transportation Public Affairs Workshop (NTPAW), AASHTO's Administrative Subcommittee on Public Affairs.

Nolfé said she is, "honored that the Department has been recognized in this way."

*Technology

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ion sign on the other side of the road is activated through a radio signal. Solar powered, the system is backed up by battery power.

Systems have been installed on the East Bay Bike Path at the intersection of Franklin Street in Warren, and at the intersection of Child Street in Warren.

The remaining two systems will be installed by the end of September at the Coventry Greenway and the intersection of Route 117 in Coventry, and the South County Bike Path and the intersection of Route 108 and Railroad Street in South Kingstown.

"We have selected these four locations as test sites," added Capaldi. "We're hoping to obtain feedback from path users to determine its effectiveness before we install the system in other locations." Warwick-based Cross Alert Systems, Inc. has the \$62,000 contract for the project.

Messages to RIDOT's Bike Coordinator

When people visit the BikeRI section of the RIDOT web site and fill out a form to have a copy of the Guide to Cycling in the Ocean State mailed to them, many leave comments, too. Some recent comments have been:

The bike paths in Rhode Island have provided many hours of enjoyment, exercise and family time. Thank you for your efforts that make them so great!

Michelle Cavaco

I have enjoyed two of the bike trails in RI and want to check out other bike trails. Rhode Island should be very proud of the many trails available. Thank you!

Carolyn Sovet

My husband and I are planning a move to Rhode Island and appreciate the hard work of whomever designed this wonderful site and map. Thanks.

Lisa Friel

Very nice, uncluttered and on-topic page for cycling. Other state DOTs could take a lesson from you.

J. Lemieux



RIDOT's PUBLIC AFFAIRS CHIEF, Dana Alexander Nolfé, receives the Skills Award in Writing at the National Transportation Public Affairs Workshop, held in Denver in August. The presentations were handed out by public affairs officers from other states, this year pretending to be the crew from "South Park." Nolfé took care of "Kenny," standing behind her.

Three teams from RIDOT compete in Greenway Challenge on the Blackstone

The Greenway Challenge, held each Fall on the Blackstone River Valley, is a relay race, and more. It honors the hard work of the thousands of people who brought the Blackstone River back from its poor condition 30 years ago, as well as the continuing effort to restore the watershed. The Challenge was held on September 25. Mike DeRotto (Highway Engineering) coordinating the RIDOT effort, and developed three teams for the department. A total of 50 teams entered the race.

Team 2 runners were Tom Bushell (Traffic Engineering) and Mike DeRotto, paddlers were David Amalfitano (Materials) and Amy Anderson (Co-op????), and bike riders were Mark Felag (Materials) and Ivan McTaggart (Contract Administration). Team 2 finished in 22nd place, with a time of five hours and 58 minutes.

Team 1 runners were Bob Rocchio (Traffic Engineering) and Jim O'Connor (Real Estate/Property Management), paddlers were Steve Kut (MIS) and Joe Don Baker (Highway Engineering), and bike riders were Ed Szymanski (Office of Environmental Programs) and Mike Mitchell (Legal). Team 1 finished in 23rd place, with a time of five hours, 58 minutes, and 48 seconds.

Team 3 runners were Rod Machado (Federal Programs) and Tom Lewandowski (Policy/Planning Office), paddlers were Bruce Kut and Coral Siligato (Bridge Co-op), and bike riders were Dotty Pascale (Financial Management Office) and Brian Peterson (Financial Management Office). With two team members ill, Team 3 went ahead with the race, and finished in a decent 37th place, with a time of six hours and 47 minutes.

Woman's fury prevents Mike Mitchell from going home

Barrister held captive in Cornwall, Ontario hotel room

By Brian Peterson, Associate Director

Mike Mitchell is Deputy Chief of RIDOT Legal Services. Is he crazy? Some would say so, but to us bicyclists in the Department, he is our hero. Why? Because while the rest of us trade high fives on Bike to Work Day because we managed to traverse the one percent grade of the Cranston Bike Path, his idea of a good ride is to complete his annual 300 kilometer ride in less than 20 hours. As part of his membership in Randonneurs USA, Mike does one 300-kilometer brevet (*French for "Oh, does my butt hurt"*) and one 200-kilometer brevet each year as well as one long "adventure ride."



Mike Mitchell

In June of 2003, Mike's family went to Columbus, Ohio to visit relatives. While the rest of the family took the conventional route back (the family van), Mike rode his bicycle from Columbus to Providence, a distance of 900 miles. If the trip wasn't enough of a challenge, he carried all his gear in front and rear panniers and camped most nights. He made it back in nine days, despite seven days of rain.

This July, Mike's family took his youngest son to camp in New Hampshire. Mike used this as an opportunity to tune up for his summer adventure, so while his family drove back, he rode his bike 122 miles from Northwood, New Hampshire to Providence.

This year, Mike's son was returning to the University of Toronto. Mike's plan was to get him settled and leave Toronto

on Saturday, September 4th and ride the 700 miles from Toronto to Providence. His RIDOT friends told Mike that this was an easy trip as it was 200 miles less than the ride from Columbus, Ohio and, after all, it is downhill from Canada to Providence.

Like all good plans, this one went slightly awry. Because of his son's housing issues, Mike didn't leave Toronto until Monday September 6. He headed east from Toronto along the north shore of Lake Ontario then along the St. Lawrence Seaway, with an intended crossing at Cornwall, Ontario. Tuesday afternoon brought rain, which was nothing compared to the 30 to 40 mile per hour headwind that he faced on Wednesday. On Thursday, Mike encountered a woman named Frances and all her fury! With Hurricane Frances came 40 mile per hour winds and rain, lots and lots of rain. Not to be deterred, Mike kept on riding. By 1:30 p.m., he had made only 40 miles. A soaking wet, cold, tired, and discouraged Mike faced a bridge crossing at Cornwall Ontario across the St. Lawrence Seaway into New York in pouring rain and 50 to 60 mile per hour crosswinds. At this point, he did what the rest of us would have done two days earlier. He checked into a hotel and tried to get warm.

On Friday, Mike headed into New York and then south along the banks of Lake Champlain and Lake George and over the Adirondack Mountains. (*So much for the downhill theory.*)

Along the way, he stopped at Fort Ticonderoga to watch a Revolutionary War reenactment, and spent several hours trying to get the Redcoats to shoot him and put him out of his misery.

He made arrangements to meet his wife on Sunday at Saratoga, New York where his 576-mile odyssey ended. They drove back to Rhode Island, which impressed us more than his trip. How many of our spouses would have come to get us? We can only imagine what is planned for next year.

Student enjoys dream trip to Greece

Valerie Frezza, the daughter of Bernie Frezza of the RIDOT Director's Office and a student at Roger Williams University, enjoyed a special summer trip to Greece. In excerpts from a paper she wrote on the trip, she explains how Christos Xenophontos of RIDOT Contracts and Specifications helped her achieve a lifetime goal.

"As a child, I was always mesmerized by Greek mythology. I loved reading stories about the gods and goddesses, and the heroes slaying the monsters.... In high school, a love for the ancient Greek culture developed into the love of all old cultures, and a captivation with historical events.

"How I found myself in Greece actually began the summer of 2003 when (I was) an intern with the Rhode Island Department of Transportation. It was through this job that I met Christos Xenophontos. He was very interested in my travels, and told me about the Paideia Program, a nonprofit educational organization concerned with the future of Greek

heritage and language within not only the Greek-American community, but the American society as well. Paideia offers classes in Greece through area colleges and universities. In the spring of 2004, my application was accepted, and I flew to Athens and on to Rhodes.

"Living in the village, I was completely immersed in Greek culture. I found myself observing a lifestyle I could have never imagined.... I finally saw the Acropolis and the Parthenon, the Greek Parliament and the Temple to Zeus...."Now that I am home, I realize that Greece changed me.... I will never forget my travels to Greece, and all that I learned, both inside the classroom, and outside of it."



Valerie Frezza, Christos Xenophontos

Golf Tournament provides record number of scholarships through RIDOT's Memorial Scholarship Fund

By Alison Natale

The 2004 RIDOT Memorial Scholarship Fund Annual Golf Tournament took place on July 30 at the Triggs Memorial Golf Course in Providence. Now in its ninth consecutive year the tournament is aimed at raising money for the RIDOT Memorial Scholarship Fund, which benefits the children of RIDOT employees, past and present.

This year, 36 scholarships were awarded, with one \$1,000 award given to a student whose parent died during their service at the Department of Transportation. The rest of the students were awarded \$400 scholarships to pursue higher education.

Some 124 golfers took part in the event, many of them RIDOT employees on a vacation day. Each participant paid a registration fee of \$125, which covered course costs. Money raised for the scholarship fund comes from corporate donations, which totaled \$14,000 this year.

According to Despina Metakos, President of the RIDOT Memorial Scholarship Fund, "Every year the number keeps going up and up." Over 90 scholarships have been awarded and \$60,000 raised over the last nine years.



TEEING OFF: Ed Szymanski follows his shot at the RIDOT golf tournament.

Corporate sponsors such as Pare Engineering, Massachusetts Electric, and D'Ambra Construction have been generous supporters. This year, Pare Engineering sponsored a \$10,000 putting contest, which was won by RIDOT Deputy Director Chuck Alves. Alves was awarded the \$10,000 prize, half of which goes to the scholarship

fund. D'Ambra Construction and Mass Electric hosted the Million Dollar Hole-in-One competition, although no golfer was able to succeed in the contest.

Metakos, who has played in the event every year cites, "great volunteer help" as the key to the tournament's success. Students who receive the awards are asked, along with their parents, to attend as volunteers. This year, 25 recipients were on hand to help out.

RIDOT employees also gave their time, along with a vacation day, to help make the tournament run as smoothly as possible. Beth Cerroni, who has volunteered for all nine years, is known as the "Raffle Ticket Queen," and sold over \$1,000 in tickets this year. She says, "I love volunteering because it is great to see someone smile and receive something that they wouldn't ordinarily get."

The 2004 tournament was a great success. However, it would not have been possible without the help of all the sponsors, participants, and volunteers. With their assistance, a record number of scholarships were awarded this year, making paying for higher education a little bit easier for 36 students.

Alves wins \$10,000 putting contest

Pare Engineering's Putting Contest, part of the RIDOT Memorial Scholarship Fund Annual Golf Tournament, was one RIDOT Deputy Director Chuck Alves isn't soon to forget. The contest offers the chance to win \$10,000 by making five consecutive putts from 10, 20, 30, 40, and 50 feet, respectively. Each competitor purchased a \$10 raffle ticket, which gave the player three chances to make a putt from 10 feet. Those who succeeded at ten feet then went on to a 20 foot putt and winners who sunk the putt at 20 feet went on to 30 feet.

Alves was the only one to make the putt from 30 feet. With no competition, he was exempt from the 40 foot putt and moved directly to the 50 foot chal-

lenge. With \$10,000 on the line and lots of anxious on-lookers present, a confident Alves lined up his shot and sunk the putt.

The crowd went wild. Alves was ecstatic, in awe of what had just happened. Statistically speaking, it is very rare for someone to sink four consecutive putts from the distances Alves putted. The 50 foot putt was the most challenging; professionals sometimes struggle with it.

"Never in a million years did I believe that I would make a 50 foot putt. My only hope was to make it close to the hole so that I didn't embarrass myself in front of my colleagues," said a shocked Alves. The \$10,000 he won



SPECIAL SHOT: Chuck Alves, left, lines up his shot, then, right, is showered with congratulations as he wins the putting contest.

was evenly split, with \$5,000 going to the Scholarship Fund and the rest going to Alves.

Safety Day 2004

On July 20, RIDOT's Office on Highway Safety held its seventh annual Safety Day, with RIDOT's summer interns as staff. Children from 7 to 12 years old from all over the state, over 2,000 strong, gathered at Goddard State Park to learn how safety plays an important part in their everyday lives.

Activities range from educational to fun to downright healthy. A helmet fitting station, bike rodeo and a "Sergeant Seatbelt" event were educational activities, while face painting and two rock walls were there for entertainment. Each child was provided with a healthy bagged lunch. A poster contest was held after the event, with the winner awarded \$30 thanks to AAA.



ATSSA offers travelling National Work Zone Memorial

The number of work zone deaths has increased significantly in our nation, from 868 in 1999 to over 1,100 in 2002. These men, women, and children were often forgotten until recently. Unveiled in April 2002, the National Work Zone Memorial is a living tribute to their memory. It travels to communities across the country to raise public awareness of the need to respect and stay safe in America's roadway work zones. To sponsor a visit, check the American Traffic Safety Services Association (ATSSA) web site at <http://www.atssa.com/about/foundationnwzm.asp>





The W'RIDOT Annual Conference, left, was held at URI's W. Alton Jones Campus on June 17th. Participants included front row from left to right, Kathi Charpentier, Deborah Cameron, Cynthia Levesque, Deborah Munroe, and Camie Corrente; middle row, Joanne Kaczynski, Jo Taylor-Prata, Joanne Powe, Mona Manachi, Lenore Duffy, Donna LaFazia, Nancy Capilli Knox, Betty Swartz, and Sheila Urban; back row, Sheleen Clarke, Laura Andrews, Maureen McMahon, Coleen Kerr, Sue Doucette, Kathryn Cook-Pelletier, Sandra Actis, Patty D'Ambra, and Marie McGlynn.

TMC sets up traffic planning for special events

Special events such as the Tall Ships, the Hot Air Balloon Festival, or major events at McCoy Stadium draw big crowds and create traffic. That traffic must be managed for convenience and for safety.

RIDOT's Transportation Management Center's Incident Management Task Force recently created a Planned Event Task Force, realizing that traffic management for special events needs the same planning and coordination that construction activities do. When, where, what roads will be affected and what resources will be needed must be considered. Newport Police Chief Charles Golden is chair of the Planned Event Task Force.

The Planned Event Task Force also takes into consideration that while an event may take place in one community, it will have traffic impacts in other communities. This was the case during the July visit of the Queen Mary to Newport Harbor. That event demonstrated a need for municipalities to coordinate traffic management activities.

The task force has

identified a need for training in incident command, in order to institutionalize a common protocol and language. This would improve coordination between municipalities during an event.

Successful incident management depends on cooperation among agencies, municipalities, and responders, and each has limited resources.

Chief Golden told the Incident Management Task Force that the proposed "across town lines" training will provide a baseline for evacuation planning,

homeland security, and diversionary routing. The group is investigating the possibility of Incident Command Training being offered by Rhode Island's Emergency Management Agency.

The first Incident Management training was held in 1996 in Providence, with a goal of "good cooperation among agencies." With more cars on the road, more tourists, and more special events, the agencies now working together through the RIDOT TMC help ensure that the investments Rhode Island is making in ITS will pay off statewide.



THE PLANNED EVENT TASK FORCE held its first meeting in July 2004. Left to right, members include Sergeant Bob Farnum, Rhode Island State Police; Detective Freddy E. Rocha, Providence Police Department; Major Joseph H. Tavares, Warwick Police Department; Cynthia Levesque, RIDOT TMC Manager; Chief Charles Golden, Newport Police Department; John Colangelo, VHB; Dan DiBiasio, Chief of RIDOT Community Affairs; and Matt Giardina, Director of Highway Watch for Rhode Island Trucking.

Flu shot clinics set at RIDOT

This year, the Wellness Company, a Rhode Island medical services group will provide flu shots for interested RIDOT employees. In order to plan and schedule this no cost wellness program that would be covered by your State medical insurance, we need to accurately gauge the potential interest of employees.

The following dates and locations have been scheduled:

RIDOT, Two Capitol Hill, Providence

Date: Tuesday, October 19, 2004

Time: 9:00 am to 11:00 am

Location: Construction Conference Room #117

RIDOT Highway & Bridge Maintenance Headquarters

Date: Thursday, October 21, 2004

Time: 7:30 am to 11:30 am

Location: Training Room, 360 Lincoln Avenue, Warwick

If you are interested in getting a flu shot, please contact Cheryl Wilkes of Human Resource for the Two Capitol Hill clinic at 222-2572, x-4614; or Pam Moscarelli for the Highway Maintenance Headquarters clinic at 222-6765, x-4897. Reservations must be made by October 11 for clinic appointments.

Who needs a flu shot?

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Immunization Program, an annual flu shot is recommended for:

- All children 6-23 months of age.
- Household contacts and out-of-home caretakers of infants from 0-23 months of age.
- People 50 years of age or older.
- Residents of long-term care facilities housing persons with chronic medical conditions.
- People who have long-term health problems with: heart disease, kidney disease, lung disease, metabolic disease, such as diabetes, asthma, anemia, and other blood disorders.
- People with a weakened immune system due to: HIV/AIDS or another disease that affects the immune system- long-term treatment with drugs such as steroids- cancer treatment with x-rays or drugs.
- People 6 months to 18 years of age on long-term aspirin treatment (these people could develop Reye Syndrome if they got the flu).
- Women who will be pregnant during influenza season.
- Physicians, nurses, family members, or anyone else coming in close contact with people at risk of serious influenza.
- Anyone else who wants to reduce their chance of catching influenza.

An annual flu shot should be considered for:

- People who provide essential community services.
- People at high risk for flu complications who travel to the Southern hemisphere between April and September, or who travel to the tropics or in organized tourist groups at any time.
- People living in dormitories or under other crowded conditions, to prevent outbreaks.



STATE POLICE COLONEL Steven Pare speaks at a late August press conference at the Cranston Police Station announcing special enforcement over the Labor Day holiday. To his right is RIDOT Director James R. Capaldi, P.E.

RIDOT gives three additional radar detectors to State Police to improve work zone safety

The Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) this summer gave the Rhode Island State Police three additional radar detectors to help improve highway safety on Rhode Island's highways. With this equipment State Police will be able to set up additional patrols in construction zones.

"Safety is RIDOT's number one concern and anything we can do to help protect our workers is something we need to do," said James R. Capaldi, P.E., RIDOT's Director. "Unfortunately, if drivers speed through our work zones that will mean drivers will be getting more tickets."

Fines are doubled in construction work zones. State Police will be looking for work zone violators when construction workers are at work in limited access highway areas, such as Routes 6, 95, 195, and 295. Drivers are urged to be aware of workers near the roadway, obey flaggers, and stay alert.

"In some work zones nothing but a construction cone separates the driver from the construction worker," said Capaldi. "By obeying posted speed limits a trip to the store might take a few more minutes but everyone will be safer."



SMILE for the camera: Vi-ravanh Sivanthaphanith of RIDOT's Policy and Planning Office smiles as Chuck Aube of RIDOT Construction takes her photo. Photo IDs were created through the summer months.

Summer vacations

The Marshalls' western adventure

Anita Marshall of RIDOT Highway Engineering, along with her husband John and their two children, John, 10, and Rebecca, 7, spent their vacation exploring the west. They drove their recreational vehicle out to Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming, 2,500 miles from Rhode Island. The children participated in Yellowstone's Jr. Ranger Program.

The family stayed at campgrounds along the way, and spent a few nights in Cody and Jackson Hole, and toured Yellowstone and the Grand Tetons. They also spent a few days in South Dakota, and saw Mount Rushmore and Crazy Horse, as well as touring an 1800's gold mine in the Black Hills. In addition, they stayed one night at the Ingalls Homestead in DeSmet, South Dakota, the 160 acre prairie where Laura Ingalls lived, and saw the pageant where participants dress up as characters from "Little House on the Prairie." Driving home, they spent a day at Cedar Point Park in Sandusky, Ohio, which has the world's fastest roller coaster.



Anita Marshall



MOUNT RUSHMORE was among the destinations for the Marshall family.

they waited two hours for help. They were caught in a tornado in Minnesota, and saw roofs ripped off barns, downed pole lines, trees uprooted, and corn fields flattened. While some vehicles were tipped over by the wind, they pulled into a rest area that protected them from the strong gusts.

PROUD SISTER: Jeannie Black of RIDOT Maintenance is the sister of the keyboard player in presidential candidate John Kerry's high school rock band, the Electras. Kerry played bass guitar, see right. Jeannie's brother, Jack Radcliffe, continues to play and perform as a New Orleans ragtime piano player. He and his family live in nearby Massachusetts.



MOUSE ON A STICK, above: Patty D'Ambra of RIDOT Construction discovered these unique flowers when she visited Mount Rainier in Washington State south of Seattle this summer. The Western Anemone is referred to as "Mouse on a stick" when it goes to seed. She also saw Beargrass, right, which is not really a grass, but is in the lily family. It looks, she says, "like a white Hersey Kiss on a stick, or little martian vehicles taking off."



New employees hired, retirees leave RIDOT

New employees hired this summer at the Department of Transportation included John P. Garrick of Administrative Services, Maria E. Kunhardt of Bridge Design, Mark A. Blanchard of Construction, Maureen F. Mooney for Financial Management, Wayne R. Derosier, David P. Fournier, Sr., Adelia A. Pandolfi, Paul W. Cahill, Carleton D. Aubin, John J. Richmond, Paul E. Campbell, Jr., all of Highway & Bridge Maintenance, Sandra G. Morel of Legal, Deanna M. Raphael of MIS, and Daniel E. Clarke of Real Estate.

Retirees this summer included Alfred R. Marino and Henry W. Whitford of Construction, Robert J. Letteri of Design, Edward T. Murphy, Jr. of Health & Safety, David L. Farrell, Harold L. Seamans, John D. Nickelson, David L. Goglia, Joseph R. Hussey, and Susan D. Olsen, all of Highway & Bridge Maintenance.

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Play Ball!



RIDOT staffers enjoyed a special night at the Pawtucket Red Sox on June 22. RIDOT Night at the PawSox included a barbecue dinner, a chance to get autographs, watching the Director's son James throw out the first ball, and the game, too!

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